

Name _____ Hour _____

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Study Guide ~ English 11

*Illustration of Huck Finn
by E. W. Kemble from 1884 first edition*

HUCKLEBERRY FINN

“A book of mine where a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat.”

- Notebook #35 (reprinted in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Univ. of California Press, 2003)

When people let Huck Finn alone he goes peacefully along, damaging a few children here and there and yonder, but there will be plenty of children in heaven without those, so it is no great matter. It is only when well-meaning people expose him that he gets his real chance to do harm. Temporarily, then, he spreads havoc all around in the nurseries and no doubt does prodigious harm while he has his chance. By and by, let us hope, people that really have the best interests of the rising generation at heart will become wise and not stir Huck up. - *Mark Twain's Autobiography*



Introduction: (fill in the blanks): Twain was born in _____ when Halley's Comet was visible. He predicted that the same comet would mark his death. He died in _____, the year Halley's Comet was again visible in the world. Twain's real name was

_____. Mark Twain means _____, which is 12 feet (a fathom is six feet). Twain was a riverboat pilot and writes from his own experiences of the river and its people. It took Twain _____ years to write this novel.

The *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is considered by scholars to be the first truly American novel for the following reasons:

American themes: _____

American language: _____

American setting: _____

This novel is a _____ novel. A _____ is a rogue or an adventurer. There is no real plot. The novel's structure is _____, or a series of episodes or events. Some people say that HF is an _____ of the Civil War, and there are places where this claim is clearly evident. The novel is also _____ when Twain makes fun of certain things like the progressive notion that people can be "fixed" (when Judge Thatcher tries to reform Pap Finn) and Romantic literature (Sir Walter Scott).

Vocabulary: (define first six and add four more of your own; put page numbers and definition)

1. carpetbaggers _____
2. lath _____
3. skiff _____
4. texas (not the state) _____
5. dauphin _____
6. mesmerism _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Close Study: Find two examples for each item. Cite the chapter for each of your examples.

Jim being a father to Huck (think of all the things a father does for a child)	1.
	2.
Huck pretending to be someone else. Say who he was and why he was pretending.	1.

	2.
Huck caring about and/or action for someone else's welfare.	1.
	2.
Huck not believing in himself or having self doubt.	1.
	2.
Twain's use of hyperbole (exaggeration)	1.
	2.
Twain's description of nature (beautiful or not)	1.
	2.

Diction: List as many words as you can for “beating,” as in spanking or whipping that you can find in the novel. After the word, put the page number in parentheses.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. _____ () | 5. _____ () |
| 2. _____ () | 6. _____ () |
| 3. _____ () | 7. _____ () |
| 4. _____ () | 8. _____ () |

What conclusion can you draw from the many uses of these words?

Section Study Guides: To help your comprehension, answer the questions before the quizzes for each section.

Chapters 1-14

1. What does Jim think happened to him as a result of the trick that Tom plays on him?
2. How does Huck know that the drowned body that is found is not his Pap?
3. How does Huck know that his father has returned?
4. How does Huck escape his father?
5. Why has Jim run away from Miss Watson?
6. What prank does Huck play on Jim, and how does it backfire?
7. How does Mrs. Loftus figure out that Huck is not a girl?
8. Whom do Huck and Jim discover on the wrecked steamboat?
9. Why can't Huck and Jim escape from the boat? How do they finally get away?
10. Where does Huck get his information about dukes and kings?

My favorite part from this section is when _____ (then explain why).

Something I don't understand is

Chapters 15-23

11. What is Jim doing when Huck rejoins him after they are lost in the fog?
12. What is Jim's response to Huck's trick?
13. How do Huck and Jim know that they have passed Cairo? Why is this important?
14. After Huck forgets his name, how does he trick Buck into revealing it?
15. How does Huck rediscover Jim?
16. Why does Huck feel responsible for the carnage following Sophia's elopement?
17. What had the king and the duke been doing before they met Huck?
18. How does the duke arrange for them to float by day?
19. What is the people's response to the "Royal Nonesuch"?
20. What does Jim tell Huck about his daughter Elizabeth?

My favorite part from this section is when _____ (then explain why).

Something I don't understand is

Chapters 24-end

21. How does the king learn about the Wilks family?

22. Why is the king worried that the gold is \$415 short? How do they solve the problem?
23. What makes Huck determined to steal the gold back from the duke and the king?
24. What is Levi Bell's plan for deciding who the real Harvey and William Wilks are?
25. Who sells Jim out?
26. Who does Mrs. Phelps think Huck is?
27. Describe how Tom shocks Aunt Sally?
28. Who does Tom pretend to be?
29. Describe what Tom does when he can't climb the lightning rod.
30. What does Tom want Jim to water his plant with?
31. How does Tom get hurt?
32. Who clarifies the identities of Tom and Huck?
33. What has happened to Huck's father?
34. Why is Jim now a free man?
35. Where does Huck say he will go now?

My favorite part from this section is when _____ (then explain why).

Something I don't understand is